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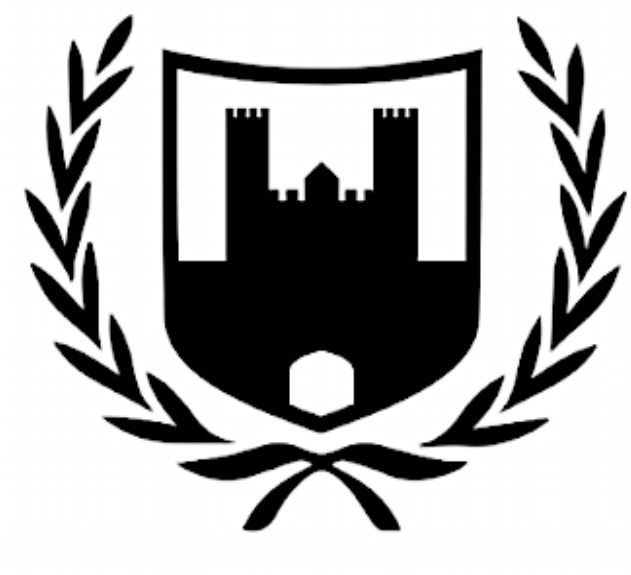
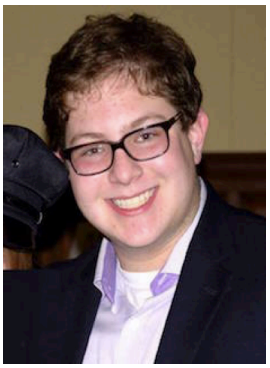


From the Files of Project Blue Book, 1964

“The Air Force has never ruled out the possibility that we are being visited from outer space. It says only that it has no evidence to support the possibility.”

-Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, Founding Director of Project Blue Book



Dear Delegates,

Our names are Jon Goldstein and David Gumins, and we are excited to welcome you to the most out-of-this-world committee at WUMUNC 2017! Before we discuss our committee, here's a little bit about us:

Jon: I grew up in Scarsdale, New York, a suburb not far from New York City, and I am a senior in the Olin Business School studying Marketing, Organization Behavior, and Psychology. Over the course of my college Model UN career, I've directed three committees, as well as served on both WUMUNC secretariat and the team's Executive Board. This year, I'm especially excited to direct this unique committee with my good friend, David Gumins.

David: I'm a member of the Class of 2017 majoring in Economics and Strategy with a minor in Computer Science, from Wilton, Connecticut. I joined WUIRC two years ago when I served as crisis staff for the G20 Summit at WUMUNS. Though I have never been abducted by aliens, I cannot wait to go on this journey with you.

Our committee begins in early 1964, in the midst of the Cold War and Lyndon B. Johnson's first hundred days in office. The massive crash of an unidentified flying object in Kecksburg, Pennsylvania has left a trail of dramatic destruction in its wake, with widespread panic and scores of casualties. Dozens are presumed missing or dead, and the situation continues to worsen. Soon after the crash, the U.S. Air Force set up a perimeter restricting access to the crash site to authorized emergency response personnel as well as those from Project Blue Book, the Air Force's subdivision for UFO investigation.

Within 36 hours of the crash, President Johnson has formed the "Condon Commission," an elite team of scientists, experts, and advisors from the public, private, and military sectors to organize an emergency response to this unnatural disaster and deal with the aftermath. Convening at the University of Pittsburgh, the president's commission has quickly begun to receive enormous publicity. However, as numbers of deaths, injuries, and disappearances continue to rise in the area, a national cloud of suspicion has been cast over the federal government, which has been widely accused of staging a cover-up. Regardless of these allegations, as the situation grows more dire, the entire nation—and the whole world—now look to the Condon Commission as they handle this unfolding crisis.

On a further note, delegates within this committee should understand that given the unusual and very dubious nature of the source material for this topic, the directors have taken some liberties in changing certain details and dates within the historical background. Though much is based in fact, the directors have extrapolated and hyperbolized reported events. Viewer discretion is advised.

If you have any questions about the material or need something clarified, don't hesitate to reach us at jongoldsteinjg@gmail.com and dgumins@wustl.edu. Come February, we move into a land of both shadow and substance, of things and ideas. That's the signpost up ahead--our next stop, the Twilight Zone!

Jonathan Goldstein and David Gumins

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Committee Background

The War of the Worlds (1938)

With the invention of airplane flight and automobile transportation, humankind's fascination with the otherworldly spiked in the mid 20th-century. On October 30, 1938, actor Orson Welles' dramatic radio broadcast of H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* was so convincing that countless numbers of panicked civilians across the country took to the streets to escape what they believed was an actual alien invasion.[1] What started as a special Halloween episode of CBS Radio's *The Mercury Series on the Air* had inadvertently triggered mass hysteria, traffic jams, and injuries.

Orson Welles' The War of the Worlds

Image Credit: WikiMedia Commons

The New York Times.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1938.

Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact

Many Flee Homes to Escape 'Gas Raid From Mars'—Phone Calls Swamp Police at Broadcast of Wells Fantasy

A wave of mass hysteria seized thousands of radio listeners throughout the nation between 8:15 and 9:30 o'clock last night when a broadcast of a dramatization of H. G. Wells's fantasy, "The War of the Worlds," led thousands to believe that an interplanetary conflict had started with invading Martians spreading wide death and destruction in New Jersey and New York.

and radio stations here and in other cities of the United States and Canada seeking advice on protective measures against the raids.

The program was produced by Mr. Welles and the Mercury Theatre on the Air over station WABC and the Columbia Broadcasting System's coast-to-coast network, from 8 to 9 o'clock.

The radio play, as presented, was to simulate a regular radio pro-

Years later, during the direct aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, people initially questioned the authenticity of the reported attack, with many suspecting another sensational stunt.[2] In the end, *The War of the Worlds* broadcast had lasting impacts on American attitudes towards reports of UFOs or invasions and also revealed the American public's clear unpreparedness in the event of a real invasion.

Image Credit: DeviantArt

[1] Lovgen, Stefan. ""War of the Worlds": Behind the 1938 Radio Show Panic." *National Geographic News*. June 15, 2005.
[2] Rich, Frank. "Two Top Guns Shoot Blanks." *The New York Times*. June 18, 2005.

Kenneth Arnold UFO Sighting

On June 24, 1947, American airman Kenneth Arnold made waves in the media when he reported the first modern UFO sighting near Mount Rainier, Washington. Arnold claimed to have observed "peculiar looking aircraft… flying at tremendous speed" that "flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water."[3] Soon, as interest in the odd story exploded and the public became obsessed with the mystery of Arnold's UFOs, sensationalist media mistakenly described them as "flying saucers," and thus the myth was born.

As news of Arnold's story swept the nation, the idea of "flying saucers" travelling across American airspace at high speeds sent ripples of fear and concern through the country's collective consciousness. In the wake of the sighting, proposed explanations ranged from natural phenomena to more extreme theories of secret technology of American, Soviet, or alien origin. Following this incident, talk of extraterrestrials and flying saucers would dominate Ufology forevermore.[4]

UFO Summer of '47

Kenneth Arnold's UFO sighting would prove to be only the first of many around the world in the months and years following. During the "UFO Summer of '47," the United States saw an incredible jump in the number of sightings, with eyewitness reports of all manner of UFOs. Many UFOs were ultimately identified or explained by prosaic explanations: natural phenomena such as ball lightning, misperceptions induced by cognitive impairment, or consumer or military technology. For example, the Air Force had early suspicions that reports of boomerang-shaped UFOs might in actuality be sightings of Soviet-redesigned Horten Ho 229 flying wing planes,[5] early jet-propelled aircraft invented by the famous Horten Brothers, a sibling pair of Nazi aerospace scientists.[6]

Outside of the period's explained UFO sightings, some cases, such as the Roswell UFO Incident or New Mexico's green fireballs, remain shrouded in mystery and doubt and are only vaguely understood to this day.[7] In the former incident, local newspapers in Roswell, New Mexico, began reporting that the local Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF) recently "came into the possession of a flying disc" following a UFO crash in the area, only to release a conflicting statement later in the day that claimed the recovered disk was actually only a weather balloon. The RAAF's dubious change in narrative led to speculation of an Air Force cover-up, with more extreme theorists alleging involvement by a secret presidential commission purportedly called the "Majestic-12."[8] In the latter incident, the Air Force became concerned over widespread reports from scientists and technicians of mysterious green fireballs flying near secret government laboratories in New Mexico.[9] Proposed explanations from the Air Force ranged from some previously unobserved type of natural phenomena to suspicions of Soviet spycraft or even fears of an alien invasion.[10] In some infrequent cases, sightings were later revealed to be elaborate hoaxes. One such hoax, the Maury Island Incident, originated the myth of "men in black" sent by the government to threaten UFO witnesses into remaining silent.[11]

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[3] Maccabee, Bruce. "JUNE 24, 1947: HOW IT ALL BEGAN--The Story of the Arnold Sighting." Dr. Bruce Maccabee Research Website.
[4] Murrow, Edward, and Kenneth Arnold. "Transcript of Ed Murrow-Kenneth Arnold Telephone Conversation." PROJECT 1947. April 7, 1950.
[5] Petty, Harry. "The German Flying Wing." The Roswell Files. December 16, 1947.
[6] Handwerk, Brian. "'Hitler's Stealth Fighter' Re-created." *National Geographic News*. June 25, 2009.
[7] Swords, Michael, and Robert Powell. *UFOs and Government: A Historical Inquiry*. San Antonio: The UFO History Group, 2012. Google Books.
[8] "Majestic 12." Federal Bureau of Investigation. January 1, 1988.
[9] Darrach, H. B., Jr., and Robert Ginna. "Have We Visitors From Space?" *LIFE Magazine*, April 7, 1952. Project 1947
[10] Ruppelt, Edward. "Chapter 4: Green Fireballs, Project Twinkle, Little Lights, and Grudge." *The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects*. NICAP. July 1, 1955.
[11] Davis, Jeff, and Al Eufrasio. "Weird Washington: The Maury Island Incident." Weird U.S. May 6, 2008.

Project Sign (1947–1948)

By the end of the UFO Summer of '47, although the public craze over UFOs had somewhat subsided, levels of sightings remained high enough that the US government decided to take action. Though newspapers no longer felt compelled to publish every UFO story they received, on September 23, 1947, the US Air Force established Project Sign as a top-secret preliminary study to monitor, evaluate, and investigate reported UFO sightings for their validity and potentiality as a threat to national security.[12] Project Sign also aimed to determine whether the UFOs could be Soviet or interplanetary in origin, with both theories seen by top-level Air Force officials as viable considerations.

At the onset, only a select few were cleared to Project Sign or officially allowed to know that it even existed. However, as time went on, this policy of absolute secrecy gradually eroded as the press made the public aware of the existence of a top-secret US Air Force program tasked with investigating UFOs and referred to it in publications as "Project Saucer." Though Project Sign itself had a limited mandate and was short-lived, the useful implications of such a program would become increasingly apparent.[13] (Project Sign was succeeded by Project Grudge in 1949, which was itself succeeded by Project Blue Book in 1952.) In the midst of the Cold War, "Project Saucer" helped assuage public fear of this newest threat from above. Nevertheless, the initiative still had much to overcome in the face of heavy UFO skepticism among members of every echelon of the larger Air Force--most of whom were not yet even aware of its existence.[14]

"The Classics"

In 1955, Project Blue Book's founding director, Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, published *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, a controversial tell-all book outlining the history of the Air Force's investigation of UFO phenomena. In it, Ruppelt devotes an entire chapter to "The Classics," a term he coined to refer to a trio of groundbreaking UFO sightings in 1948 that defined the importance of Project Sign's occupied niche within the Air Force. As he explains:

> They are called "The Classics," a name given them by the Project Blue Book staff, because: (1) they are classic examples of how the true facts of a UFO report can be twisted and warped by some writers to prove their point, (2) they are the most highly publicized reports of this early era of the UFOs, and (3) they "proved" to ATIC's [Air Technical Intelligence Center] intelligence specialists that UFOs were real.[15]

The first of "The Classics," the Mantell UFO Incident, took place on January 7, 1948, between Fort Knox and Franklin, Kentucky. When several Air Force pilots chased a speeding UFO, one pilot, Captain Thomas F. Mantell, followed the object to overly high altitudes before running out of oxygen caused him to lose consciousness and crash to his death. The Air Force later released a statement that the UFO had actually been the planet Venus bright in the night sky, but the press viewed this very dubiously and suspected a cover-up. The whole ordeal drew enormous attention, not only because of the credibility of the sighting, but also because it was the first ever publicized death associated with UFOs.[16]

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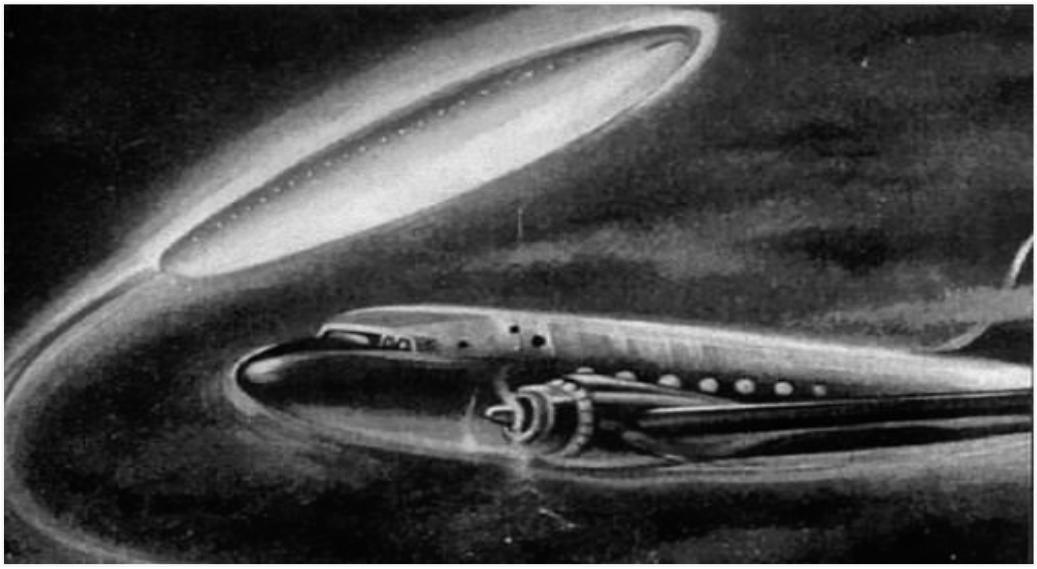
[12] Ruppelt, Edward. "Chapter 3: The Classics." *The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects*. NICAP. July 1, 1955.
[13] Ruppelt, Edward. "Chapter 2: The Era of Confusion Begins." *The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects*. NICAP. July 1, 1955.
[14] Ruppelt, Edward. "Chapter 3: The Classics." *The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects*. NICAP. July 1, 1955.
[15] Ibid.
[16] Ibid.

Secondly, in the Chiles-Whitted UFO Encounter of July 24, 1948, near Montgomery, Alabama, a UFO nearly collided with a commercial plane whose pilots, Clarence S. Chiles and John B. Whitted, later vividly described the object as long and torpedo-shaped with what appeared to be rows of windows. The public had already been exposed to an instance of UFO-related fatalities, but this instance of a near-collision in the air rapidly escalated public concerns for what was seen to be a growing threat from above.[17]

The Chiles-Whitted UFO Encounter

Image Credit: UFO Evidence



For the last of "The Classics," the Gorman UFO Dogfight, near Fargo on October 17, 1948, a North Dakota National Guard pilot, George F. Gorman, chased a UFO with his plane in a near "duel to the death" that ended with the object's escape. The incident, which was widely considered credible, drew enormous attention for Gorman's account of the UFO's uncanny speed and seemingly deliberate evasive maneuvers in avoiding his craft. Additionally, after Gorman landed, his airplane's radiation levels were measured to be well above normal, thoroughly stumping both the press and Project Sign. Consequently, nuclear energy was floated around as a possible source of energy for vessels travelling with the speed, size, shape, and control of some reported UFOs, bringing a new host of considerations and questions to prominence.[18]

Overall, "The Classics" were not only among the most highly-publicized UFO encounters of 1948 but also, more importantly, they were the most groundbreaking for Project Sign's position that UFOs posed a serious threat and could not be uniformly dismissed as hoaxes or automatically explained away by prosaic explanations.[19] With countless credible reports such as these, the importance of the UFO question and the need for a program like Project Sign to carefully study the phenomenon were even more heavily reinforced.

The *Estimate of the Situation*

Late in 1948, while the US Air Force was thoroughly convinced that UFOs were "real" as a potential threat and not to be ignored, there still lacked wide consensus on whether the unsolved cases could be foreign aircraft or

[17] Ibid.
[18] Ibid.
[19] Ibid.

extraterrestrial spaceships. A substantial growing number of high-level Air Force officials favored the "extraterrestrial hypothesis" (ETH) as the best explanation for unsolvable UFOs. While a respected opinion, it was widely felt that more evidence was needed. However, following the Chiles-Whitted UFO Encounter, Project Sign's ETH proponents felt they could finally make their case, and in September 1948, ATIC and Project Sign produced an *Estimate of the Situation* (the common title for top-secret final reports between Air Force agencies) summarizing the study's findings and proposing the Air Force officially adopt the ETH for UFOs, which was then sent to the Air Force Chief of Staff, General Hoyt Vandenberg. Unfortunately, due to what Vandenberg cited as a lack of substantial evidence, the *Estimate of the Situation* was rejected, and ETH proponents suddenly found themselves back at square one. As a result, the ETH quickly began to wane in popularity in favor of the simpler alternative of foreign origins for UFOs.[20] All copies of the top-secret report were ordered destroyed.

Project Grudge (1948–1951)

When General Vandenberg rejected the *Estimate of the Situation*, many top-level Air Force personnel saw this as an indication that Project Sign had become too open-minded and unfocused to be effective in identifying any threats posed by UFOs. By this time, Project Sign had also become consumed by an unmanageable influx of UFO sighting reports that were flooding the Air Force's intelligence desk at the Pentagon. Since each case had to be carefully inspected, Project Sign had become completely overwhelmed. As a result, the Air Force felt it evident that it needed to take its investigation of UFOs in a new direction that would be better focused and immune to distractions.

In late 1948, Project Sign was renamed "Project Grudge." Officially, the Air Force claimed that the classified title of "Project Sign" had been compromised and merely needed to be generically renamed in line with standard procedure. In actuality, however, the new name reflected a severe change in the program's leadership, personnel, and philosophy. The change was so drastic that some experts, including Ruppelt, questioned if it could be "an attempt to go underground - to make the project more secretive" after "UFO's were proven to be interplanetary."[21] On official record, Project Grudge's mission was to continue Project Sign's investigation; however, the reality was far different.

The ensuing period was one that Ruppelt would later call "The Dark Ages," owing both to an active crusade to debunk all UFO reports, as well as a propaganda campaign aimed to pacify any public interest in UFOs.[22] Debunking UFOs involved attacking the overwhelming plague of UFO reports by forcing prosaic explanations to fit each case. To facilitate this, the Air Force recruited scientific consultants to apply their expertise towards accelerating this process. Some of these experts included astronomer Dr. J. Allen Hynek, physicist Dr. Edward Condon, and Captain Edward J. Ruppelt.[23] As Dr. Hynek commented on his experience with Project Grudge, "I was quite negative in most of my evaluations. I stretched far to give something a natural explanation, sometimes when it may not have really had it."[24]

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[20] Greenwood, Barry. "UFOs: GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT, SECRECY, AND DOCUMENTS." PROJECT 1947. January 22, 1997.
[21] Ruppelt, Edward. "Chapter 4: Green Fireballs, Project Twinkle, Little Lights, and Grudge." *The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects*. NICAP. July 1, 1955.
[22] Ruppelt, Edward. "Chapter 5: The Dark Ages." *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. NICAP. July 1, 1955.
[23] Swords, Michael, and Robert Powell. *UFOs and Government: A Historical Inquiry*. San Antonio: The UFO History Group, 2012. Google Books.
[24] Stacy, Dennis. "Close Encounter with Dr. J Allen Hynek." CUFON. 1991.

Around this time, the US Air Force was also aiming to find ways to dissuade and discourage the press from overhyping the UFO situation. Since the Air Force generally refused most attempts by the press to pry more deeply into "Project Saucer," a cloud of suspicion and waves of conspiracy theories had begun to develop over information leaks, hearsay, and sensationalist reporting. To contain the situation, Project Grudge allowed the *Saturday Evening Post*'s Sidney Shalett to write an exposé on the program. As Ruppelt describes in his book:

> This was the Air Force officially reporting on UFOs for the first time... Shallet's article casually admitted that a few UFO sightings couldn't be explained, but the reader didn't have much chance to think about this fact because 99 percent of the story was devoted to the anti saucer side of the problem.[25]

Shalett's piece pacified the press and general public for a time, but only temporarily, as sensationalist media continued to publish conspiracy theories. Even before Project Grudge submitted its 600-page Grudge Report to the new Air Force Chief of Staff, General Charles Cabell, its results were already apparent: the program had successfully debunked hundreds of UFO cases with prosaic explanations and impressed the same into millions of Americans. However, these "Dark Ages" would soon come to an end.

After several sightings culminating in the Fort Monmouth Incident, in which Air Force technicians actually observed fast-moving UFOs on their radar and monitoring equipment, there was new cause for alarm and the flying saucer question was once more revisited.[26] Returning to the Grudge Report, General Cabell realized the excessive extent to which the program had been debunking *all* UFO sightings, and launched into a furor: "I want an open mind; in fact, I *order* an open mind! ... Anyone can see that we do not have a satisfactory answer to the saucer question."[27]With that, General Cabell ordered Project Grudge be dissolved and replaced with a new program to foster more open-mindedness and keep a lower profile while investigating UFOs. The new program, "Project Blue Book," was to be directed by Captain Edward J. Ruppelt and was named for the blank blue books given to students for writing essays in exams, indicating the Air Force's interest in resuming their UFO studies with a new clean slate.[28]

Project Blue Book (1952–present)

Just as Project Grudge represented the "Dark Ages" of the Air Force's UFO study, Project Blue Book's years under Captain Ruppelt represented a "Golden Age."[29] During the Ruppelt Era of Project Blue Book, due to shifts in both the program's philosophy as well as a shuffling of offices at the highest levels of the Air Force and ATIC, people were once more receptive to the notion that not every UFO could be identified.[30] For the first time since the earliest days of Project Sign, the Air Force's UFO study was doing what it had been initially founded to do. During a period in 1952 that Ruppelt and others would refer to as the "Big Flap," Project Blue Book processed an unprecedented spike in UFO sightings:

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[25] Ruppelt, Edward. "Chapter 5: The Dark Ages." *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. NICAP. July 1, 1955.
[26] Ruppelt, Edward. "The Fort Monmouth Incident." NICAP. September 10, 1951.
[27] Swords, Michael, and Robert Powell. *UFOs and Government: A Historical Inquiry*. San Antonio: The UFO History Group, 2012. Google Books.
[28] Ruppelt, Edward. "Chapter 10: Project Blue Book and the Big Build-Up." *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. NICAP. July 1, 1955.
[29] Swords, Michael, and Robert Powell. *UFOs and Government: A Historical Inquiry*. San Antonio: The UFO History Group, 2012. Google Books.
[30] Ibid.

> In Air Force terminology a "flap" is... an advanced degree of confusion that has not quite yet reached panic proportions... During the four years, the Air Force had been in the UFO business, 615 reports had been collected. During the "Big Flap" our incoming message log showed 717 reports.[31]

The Big Flap coincided with the pinnacle of Project Blue Book's Golden Age, but one UFO incident that particularly struck fear into the hearts of the public and terror into the minds of the government was the Washington National Airport Sightings.[32] Following alarming reports of UFOs sighted by American soldiers in the Korean War, the Pentagon began to place higher levels of scrutiny on Project Blue Book.[33] The Pentagon's panic reached new highs in the summer of 1952 when a multitude of pilots, Air Traffic controllers, and civilians reported seeing odd formations of illuminated craft encircling Washington National Airport in the District of Columbia. Occurring sporadically from July 12-27, these sightings were more than mere spectacles that could easily be dismissed. They were captured on radar and moved through the air as if intelligently controlled, evading other objects, while remaining locked on some imperceptible target.

Project Blue Book

Image Credit: NICAP

It seemed that the U.S. government could no longer quietly silence any media coverage and stubbornly refuse to comment; the public expected answers. While Project Grudge would have immediately dismissed these sightings as a mirage or temperature inversion, Project Blue Book publicly disclosed its spearheading of an ongoing investigation. Never before had the UFO threat so affected our nation's capital that President Truman himself called Captain Ruppelt directly to demand an explanation from Project Blue Book as he simultaneously authorized a shoot-down order. However, just as quickly as they came, the UFOs once more disappeared, never to return. No official explanation for these UFOs was ever offered, leaving the public to stew in suspicion and fear as conspiracies abounded while suddenly the government seemed unwilling to acknowledge the

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[31] Ruppelt, Edward. "Chapter 11: The Big Flap." *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. NICAP. July 1, 1955.
[32] Ruppelt, Edward. "Chapter 10: Project Blue Book and the Big Build-Up." *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. NICAP. July 1, 1955.
[33] Ibid.

transpirings. The Golden Age was characterized by Project Blue Book's refusal to default to prosaic explanations for every sighting, though to many, the absence of any official explanation from Project Blue Book on the Washington National Airport Sightings was itself an admission that something far more enigmatic was afoot.

In January 1953, the new year brought with it both the end of the Big Flap as well as the waning of the Golden Age of Project Blue Book. Despite the government's silenced investigation into the Washington National Airport Sightings, the ripples of this ordeal rattled both the Pentagon and Air Force. Consequently, the U.S. Air Force commissioned Dr. Howard P. Robertson, a CIA consultant and physicist at both the California Institute of Technology and Princeton University, to head a panel of scientists and experts to recommend a future course for Project Blue Book. The Robertson Panel's classified recommendations to the Air Force were never revealed to the public. What is known, however, is that after the supposed retirement of the panel, Captain Ruppelt publicly disassociated himself from Project Blue Book. Soon after, Ruppelt published *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, a tell-all book that quickly gained enormous attention as the only one book on Ufology actually authored by a deeply involved official.[34] Over the course of the next decade, Ruppelt would fade into obscurity until reports of his death surfaced in 1960.

Following Ruppelt's departure, Project Blue Book suffered a successive stream of less open-minded directors. The new leadership devolved Project Blue Book into another period of debunking, reminiscent of the "Dark Ages" of Project Grudge. The Air Force's new leader, General Curtis LeMay, repurposed Project Blue Book with a new agenda: to not only discredit public belief in the UFO phenomenon through propaganda campaigns but also discourage the media's preoccupation with the UFO craze. During the 1950's, the US Air Force collaborated with the media elite, most notably the Walt Disney Company, to produce documentaries and other media to serve as a public UFO education campaign. On the surface, it appeared that the Air Force was finally willing to engage the public in a conversation about UFOs, but in actuality, the campaign instead aimed to facilitate Project Blue Book's new debunking initiative.[35] Unsurprisingly, the propaganda campaign proved very successful in mitigating a great deal of the public's UFO fixation, yet many Americans still question the Air Force's side of the story.

Foundation of NICAP

In the 1950's, Donald Keyhoe, a retired Air Force Major, published widely read articles and books that claimed that UFOs were real and that the Air Force was actively misleading the public to cover-up proof of the ETH.[36] While most Ufologists chronically failed to offer substantial proof to support their claims or theories, Keyhoe's use of well-researched evidence quickly enabled him to establish himself as a major authority in the field. Before long, Keyhoe attracted powerful supporters, including Vice Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, a former CIA director who also allegedly served in Truman's "Majestic-12." In 1956, Keyhoe, Hillenkoetter, and several others co-founded the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), a civilian-run UFO research organization that quickly rose in prominence to rival Project Blue Book's niche as

[34] Swords, Michael, and Robert Powell. *UFOs and Government: A Historical Inquiry*. San Antonio: The UFO History Group, 2012. Google Books.
[35] Cameron, Grant. "Disney, UFOs And Disclosure." Jeff Rense Website. July 11, 2002.
[36] Ruppelt, Edward. "Chapter 7: The Pentagon Rumbles." *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. NICAP. July 1, 1955.

the primary authority on UFOs. NICAP used its eminence as a vehicle with which to pursue its "truth-hunting" agenda more effectively.

Over the course of the next decade, NICAP often clashed with government authorities over their UFO investigations. These confrontations took place through media coverage, in back-door political lobbies, and through contradictory field reports, such as those presented in the Levelland UFO Case and the Zeta Reticuli Incident. In the former episode, scores of residents of Levelland, Texas observed the same mysterious colored lights in the sky the first weekend of November 1957. These reports coincided with machine failures lasting the spectacles' entire duration. While Project Blue Book investigators attributed the ordeal to ball lightning, NICAP disputed this and claimed that no prosaic explanation could cause both the lights and the mechanical failures. Not even Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the prominent Project Blue Book scientist, could corroborate their unsupported electrical storm theory.[37]

In the latter episode, which transpired in 1961 in rural New Hampshire, the disturbing accounts of Barney and Betty Hill's abduction by aliens made waves in the media. While the Hills had no other eyewitnesses to confirm their claims, the couple's vivid account of their eerie encounter began when they observed strange lights floating overhead in the sky above the highway and ended when they suddenly regained consciousness hours later on an unfamiliar stretch of road dozens of miles away. The Hills had only fragmented memories of what had transpired and strange scrapes, bruises, and residue on their car, clothes, and bodies, but after independently undergoing hypnosis, they revealed they had been abducted and experimented on by grey aliens. Treating the Hills not as lab animals but as sentient beings, the grey aliens supposedly told them they were from the star system Zeta Reticuli before partially wiping their memories. While Project Blue Book quickly dismissed the Hills' story as a regular, middle-aged couple's pathetic attempt at fame through an elaborate hoax, NICAP officials confirmed too much evidence to so swiftly rebuke the ordeal. Though isolated, the Zeta Reticuli Incident has had profound impact on Ufology. Upon this, Dr. Hynek devised the famous Close Encounters system: First kind (sightings), Second Kind (alleged physical effects), and Third Kind (animated creature is present).[38] Publicly, the Hills' account gave birth to the popular UFO themes of grey aliens (or "Greys"), "missing time" following UFO abductions, and extraterrestrial experimentation on humans.[39] Thus began a new era of public obsession with the UFO phenomena. In an age of constant sightings and sporadic abduction claims, much remains unknown.

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[37] Swords, Michael, and Robert Powell. *UFOs and Government: A Historical Inquiry*. San Antonio: The UFO History Group, 2012. Google Books.
[38] Ibid.
[39] Dickinson, Terence. "The Zeta Reticuli Incident." NICAP. December 1, 1974.

Committee Mandate

Nearly two days ago, a large unidentified flying object tore across the night sky, leaving a trail of chaos and destruction in its wake before crashing in the unincorporated community of Kecksburg near Mount Pleasant Township in southwestern Pennsylvania. In every town along the UFO's path, windows were smashed, trees and telephone poles were destroyed, and temporary blackouts occurred as the object soared overhead. In the short time since the UFO crashed, the situation has become dire: thousands are injured, hundreds are missing, and scores have been presumed dead. These casualties are paired with countless reports of strange phenomena: electrical devices are on the fritz, dogs haven't stopped barking, and there's an ominous green hue in the air. Though the perimeter of the crash site was quickly quarantined by the Air Force, dozens of civilians are being arrested daily for trespassing into the restricted area.

With the American people still recovering from the shock of the recent Kennedy assassination, the country now looks towards President Lyndon B. Johnson for leadership in the midst of a situation that will surely be remembered as a critical moment in his first hundred days in office. As a first step to resolving the growing crisis, the President has created the "Condon Commission." Led by prominent physicist Dr. Edward Condon, the commission is formed from hand-picked experts to advise and guide his administration's response, the safety of thousands now rests in their hands.

You have been chosen to serve on the Condon Commission. Convened just 36 hours after the crash, your commission is responsible for coordinating emergency response, controlling access to the perimeter, and handling the dissemination of information. Additionally, coordinating a federal relief effort will require Congress to pass an emergency relief bill, so the commission will need the full cooperation and approval of both parties to be successful. If needed, the President will convey your orders to the National Guard and has granted you autonomy in determining relief efforts, including but not limited to media exposure, emergency evacuations, and execution of your individual duties. On an important note, while you can restrict access to the site in attempt to prevent the press from snooping, you cannot stop the inevitable reports both on the crash itself and the government response. The commission and its actions are under immense scrutiny from not only the mainstream but also more extreme media outlets, who thrive on hearsay and speculation.

Although you have the responsibility to keep the public informed through press releases, you control the flow of information. In that vein, you must always be cognizant that thousands of lives are at stake, and that there may be discrepancies between the short term and long term consequences of your decisions. For example, an evacuation may save lives in the immediate future but would displace thousands and upset local economy. Depending on what information gets out, you may have to decide your relationship with the international community and whether or not other countries should have access to the crash site and your commission's discoveries. To make the best possible decisions, you have been given classified clearance and have the ability to requisition certain information regarding the crash or other agencies. Be careful what you ask for. In the execution of your powers, please be advised that not all agencies of government will be fully cooperative in your proposed solutions to crises, and some may even resist due to agendas of their own.

Topic A: Public Safety

As each minute ticks by, the concern for public safety grows. The crashed object has yet to be identified, but the damage left in its wake is known all too well to the thousands injured, hundreds missing, and scores of innocent people now presumed dead. Many of these deaths were first responders who rushed to the scene of the crash only to perish at the site. Some made it out alive; however, the returners are now experiencing nausea and vomiting, spontaneous bleeding, severe fatigue and other concerning sides of radiation poisoning.[40] As a result, though government agents have secured the immediate crash site, the restricted perimeter continues to grow. Starting from ground zero, nearby patches of grass are turning brown and withering, scaring many homeowners whose decaying lawns suggest they might already be at risk. Beyond the immediate perimeter, residents of Pittsburgh and other communities in the larger radius have also been affected as well, and many fear that the situation will only get worse.

The US Air Force and government officials refuse to comment on the expanding radius, however, as it grows, more and more people are displaced and those stranded behind are left wondering if it is still safe for them to remain in their homes. Local community members are growing wary of the government selectively evacuating them, and the media is having a field day reporting on whatever the government doesn't explain. Even those who claim freedom of the press and carry their credentials are not allowed near the perimeter. Though the emergency crews have been working around the clock for the past 36 hours, relief is slow moving. It doesn't help that the government remains secretive and continues to divert resources to the ever-expanding restricted perimeter.

As more and more civilians flock to the area from nearby cities, such as Pittsburgh, government officials struggle to squelch the growing civil unrest that has devolved into widespread rioting in the streets. This task has not been any easier with the erosion of basic infrastructure surrounding Kecksburg. With bridges crumbling, trees blocking the roads, and unending sirens echoing through the area, many fear the government will soon have no choice but to resort instating martial law.

Questions to consider:

- Should the area be evacuated or would the panic cause more damage than the unknown threat of civilians remaining in their homes?
- Who should have access to the crash site and is there a limit to how large the restricted area can be?
- With limited resources, how should the major relief effort be organized?
- How should Pittsburgh and surrounding communities respond to the dire situation?

[40] "Radiation Sickness: 8 Terrifying Symptoms." *CBS News*.

Topic B: Government Secrets

Mere hours after the Kecksburg UFO crash, the US Air Force set up a perimeter restricting access to the potentially dangerous crash site, and still will not disclose any information to the public about the nature of the object, extent of the danger, or even estimates of when evacuees can return to their homes. Officials at the crash site refuse to share any information with reporters or local authorities, deeming it classified, so the news media has begun speculating that the crashed object may be related to a top-secret government program.

From the Roswell UFO Incident to New Mexico's Green Fireballs, and from the Washington National Airport Sightings to the Zeta Reticuli Incident and beyond, the American people have been continuously haunted by mysterious UFOs across the past few decades, and have grown dissatisfied with government explanations. Speculation about far-reaching conspiracies runs rampant, and many have begun to condemn the Johnson Administration, claiming that the Kecksburg crash was the horrific product of a military project gone wrong. Another prominent theory suggests that the Kecksburg UFO (and possibly all UFOs) may be a device of "psychological warfare" employed by the Soviet Union, intended to plant the seeds for mass UFO hysteria to undermine order and divert American resources away from military improvement.[41] These concerns have combined with the tensions of the Cold War, producing a public that feels helpless beneath the powers that govern them. If these feelings are left unchecked, they could potentially boil over into outright unrest.

Despite this risk, the government still remains silent on the crash and its aftermath. Although the Condon Commission has been formed with the blessing of the President, there is little initial knowledge among the members as to how the catastrophe has occurred, and government officials have made no motion to provide such information unless prodded. Some among the commission wonder if the government is trying to maintain plausible deniability, believing the commission is capable of discovering the information themselves, effectively masking their involvement if the findings were to go public. Others suspect a faction in the government disagrees with the President's decision to form the commission, and are purposefully working to keep its members in the dark. Whatever the case, a first priority is to determine who is responsible for the crash, be it the US, the Soviets, or something else, perhaps even otherworldly.

Fortunately, the members of the Condon Commission are experts in their respective fields, and enjoy the clearance afforded with such respect considering the current crisis. On the one hand, by working together, the commission will be able to request information they believe is necessary and proper to the success of their efforts, albeit, at the government's discretion. On the other hand, a lone member with the right questions and connections could certainly make headway into the mystery on their own, with the potential to do as they wish with the information they uncover, perhaps even 'altering' and 'amending' documents to their own interests. Despite this opportunity, the commission must recognize that the repercussions of leaked information are severe, with the potential to impact critical matters from congressional decisions and public opinion, to US-Soviet relations. Falsification of information could carry an even greater personal penalty. Uncovering information is clearly critical to the Condon Commission's

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[41] Swords, Michael, and Robert Powell. *UFOs and Government: A Historical Inquiry*. San Antonio: The UFO History Group, 2012. Google Books.

success, but how that information is used, and how much is revealed requires much more careful consideration.

Questions to Consider:

- In the present emergency, does the preservation of state secrets in the interests of national security outweigh a better-informed response effort in the interests of public safety?
- How much oversight and information should be granted to the Condon Commission without compromising state secrets or plausible deniability?

Topic C: Cold War Technology

From its onset, the Cold War has been a conflict that is as much military as it is ideological in nature. Outside of the wars in Korea and Vietnam, scientists of the United States and Soviet Union are fighting another battle as they rush to outpace each other in developing superior technology for warfare. In many ways, the scientific theatre of the Cold War began with the division of former Nazi scientists between the United States and Soviet Union under Operation Paperclip (US) and Operation Osoaviakhim (USSR) after WWII.[42] During the war, German scientists were developing their terrifying *wunderwaffe*, or "wonder weapons" capable of immensely destructive power.[43] Some of the most feared *wunderwaffe* from during the war include the V-weapons (V-1, V-2, and V-3), which were early ballistic missiles, as well as the Horten Ho 229 flying wing airplanes, which were early stealth fighters. After the war, blueprints for even scarier *wunderwaffe* were rumored to have been discovered, including the "sun gun," an orbital weapon of concave mirrors that could burn a city or boil an ocean,[44] as well as "Die Glocke," or "The Bell," an alleged anti-gravity vehicle shaped like a bell.[45]

In 1957, with the Soviet Union's launching of *Sputnik 1*, the first-ever artificial Earth satellite, the Cold War reached a new tempo and the Space Race had officially begun. The knowledge that Soviets had achieved spaceflight sent tremors of panic across the United States, because although *Sputnik 1* itself was harmless and did little other than broadcast simple radio pulses, many Americans were afraid that the Soviets would soon develop suborbital missiles to attack the United States from space.[46] In response to the Sputnik Crisis, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) formed a Special Committee on Space Technology under Dr. H. Guyford Stever, which was replaced in 1958 by the National Air and Space Administration (NASA).[47] Since then, the capabilities of both nations have expanded immensely. In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gargarin became the first human to orbit the Earth from space aboard the *Vostok*, and American astronaut John Glenn became the second aboard the *Friendship 7*. With both nations now having achieved human spaceflight, the Space Race has left Earth's orbit as both the United States and Soviet Union set their sights on exploring the next frontier: the Moon.

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[42] Gimbel, John. "U.S. Policy and German Scientists: The Early Cold War." *Political Science Quarterly*. 1986. The Academy of Political Science. JSTOR.
[43] Abbott, Karen. "Wunderwaffe - How the Nazi's Planned A Futuristic 'Super War.'" *Military History Now*. June 18, 2013.
[44] Ibid.
[45] Arndt, Rob. "Die Glocke (1945)." Die Glocke [the Bell].
[46] "Sputnik Launched--This Day in History, October 04, 1957." *History Channel*. A&E Television Networks. October 4.
[47] Siddiqi, Asif A. *Challenge to Apollo: The Soviet Union and The Space Race, 1945-1974*. NASA, 2000

Sputnik 1

Image Credit: NASA

The mysterious object involved in the Kecksburg crash has has baffled experts worldwide, with preliminary testimonies suggesting a controlled flight path at speeds described by some as "ridiculously fast." Another facet of the crash that will surely leave scientists scrambling is that the major extent of the damage is beyond anything previously recorded in modern history. Meanwhile, the U.S. Air Force will retain exclusive control over the immediate crash site and recovered objects until the situation on the ground has stabilized, at which time the President has requested control be transferred to the Condon Commission. Throughout this process, the committee must bear in mind the staggering geopolitical stakes involved. If scientific discoveries with potential for horrific destruction are allowed to openly disseminate throughout the nation—or worse, the world—the repercussions are unimaginable.

Questions to consider:

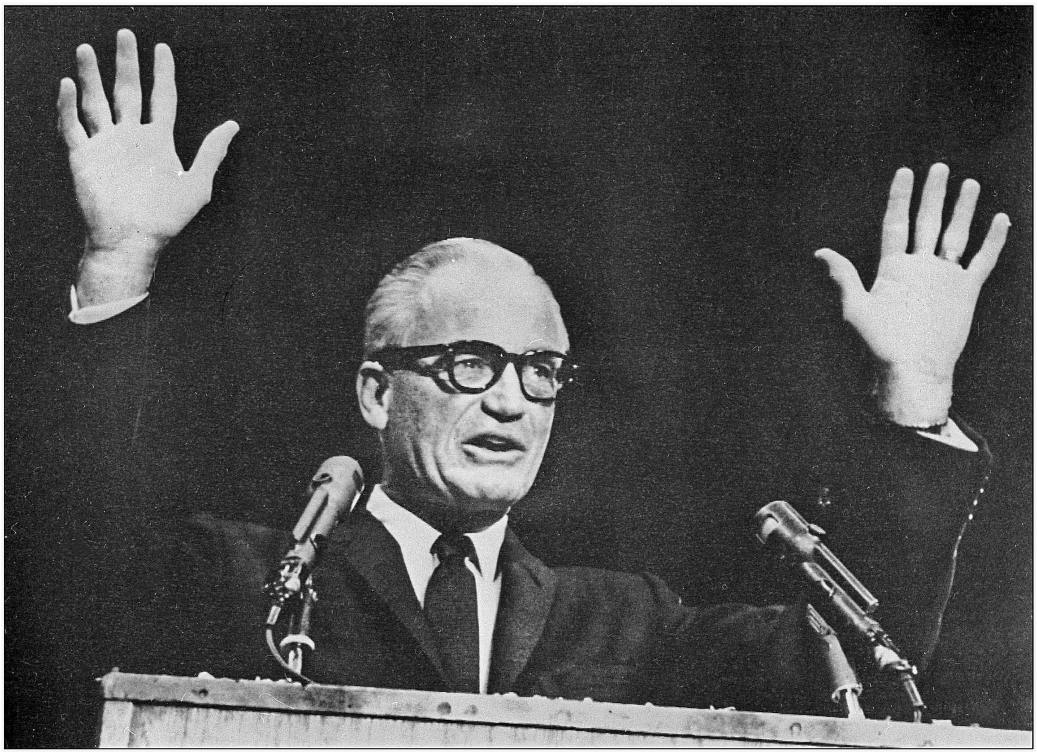
- Could the Kecksburg UFO crash be somehow related to the Space Race?
- Is it possible that reported UFOs could be attributed to secret aircraft from the Soviet Union, United States, or even *wunderwaffe*?
- Should the full extent of US military technology be shared with the general public or private sector?
- What should be the role of the private sector in the Space Race?

Topic D: Political Climate

With 1964 being an election year, and all other considerations aside, President Johnson has much to gain politically if this crisis can be resolved as smoothly as possible, especially since the incident is occurring during his "First Hundred Days" in office. However, aside from concerns directly related to the situation itself, two other major interrelated factors stand in his way: the Goldwater Movement and the larger Republican Party. Since any coordinated relief effort to provide federally organized aid to the victims of the Kecksburg UFO would require Congress to swiftly pass an emergency relief bill, any recommendations made by the Condon Commission must be able to overcome these obstacles in both houses of Congress.

U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater

Image Credit: WikiMedia Commons



In Congress, Senator Barry Goldwater (R-AZ) leads a coalition of Republican conservatives who are revered by the far right for their ideological purity and despised by the moderate right and the left for their ideological rigidity on the issues. Though Goldwater is in favor of equal rights for minorities and has historically backed civil rights legislation, he and his many supporters oppose Johnson's landmark Civil Rights bill on the grounds that it allows the federal government to perversely encroach on state's rights. Many politicians, both Democratic and Republican, see Goldwater as a purist who is who unwilling to compromise his ideals, while others laud his unwavering championing of conservatism in the face of adversity. With a large number of supporters and activists, the Goldwater Movement will surely be a force to be reckoned with even in the face of this obvious disaster. Separately, it is no secret that Senator Goldwater and President Johnson are not friends--in fact, back in the Senate they

held a quite adversarial relationship--and since many expect Goldwater to run in the upcoming Republican primaries, much of his actions can and should be viewed in the context of his probable presidential campaign. As for President Johnson himself, though admired for his incredible political prowess and effectiveness as a statesmen, many commentators who know Johnson well worry whether he himself will prioritize political gains over humanitarianism in his response to the current crisis. With the Republican primaries drawing ever closer and the larger election now less than a year away, only time will tell.

The Condon Commission will be responsible for outlining the core elements of a relief bill to be presented to Congress, designed to address not only the crash's immediate damages but also its long-term repercussions. Moreover, these recommendations must adequately prepare the United States for future events of similar proportions--there is no telling whether the crash at Kecksburg was unique in its origin or magnitude of destruction. Passing legislation will require nothing less than a spectacular effort on the behalf of the committee given the gridlock occurring in Congress as of late. Nonetheless, failure to do so would delegitimize both the US government and the Commission in the eyes of the public, and cause undue suffering among the thousands afflicted by the crash.

Questions to Consider:

- How can the Condon Commission overcome the politics of the Johnson Administration and Goldwater Movement to pass a relief bill?
- What provisions need to be included and ignored when drafting the legislation?
- What can be done if congressional Republicans hold the relief bill hostage?

Dais Positions

Each session of this committee will be overseen by the committee chair, portraying Dr. Edward Condon as the chairman of the Condon Commission, and the vice chair, portraying Bill Moyers as the vice chairman. Though they will mainly serve as moderators, they may sometimes vote on matters of importance.

Dr. Edward Condon

Chairman of the Condon Commission
Physicist at the University of Colorado Boulder
Consultant to Project Blue Book

Though Dr. Edward Condon has privately served as a special consultant to Project Blue Book on several occasions, the non-disclosure agreements he signed prohibit him from publicly discussing any details of his involvement. Dr. Condon is a leading nuclear physicist who has previously served on the Manhattan Project, and his stance as one of the earliest pioneers of quantum mechanics has earned him both fame for his insight and controversy for his defense of it against the 1930's McCarthyism of the House Un-American Affairs Committee. He recently left a professorship at Washington University to accept a high-level position in the physics department of the University of Colorado Boulder. Though Dr. Condon has never publicly expressed his own views on UFO's, he is a man of science and great integrity, and those close to him have said that he believes that prosaic explanations can explain the mysteries of every UFO sighting.[48]

[48] Morse, Philip. "Edward Uhler Condon 1902—1974; A Biographical Memoir by Philip M. Morse." National Academy of Sciences. 1976.

Bill Moyers

Vice Chairman of the Condon Commission
Special Assistant to the President of the United States
Former Baptist Minister

Bill Moyers first began working for the Lyndon B. Johnson as an intern for the then-Senator in the summer of 1954 while he was still getting his undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin. Moyers quickly proved himself to be an excellent worker and began to develop a close personal and professional relationship with the Johnsons. After college, while completing his Master of Divinity at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, he also served as an assistant news editor for the KTBC radio and television stations, which were owned by Lady Bird Johnson.[49] After becoming ordained, Bill Moyers served for a few years as Baptist minister in Weir, Texas, but left the ministry to work as a top aide in Johnson's unsuccessful 1960 presidential campaign. Once Johnson became the nominee for Vice President, Moyers became an important liaison between Johnson and Kennedy, and after their election victory, Moyers served the Kennedy Administration in various capacities, most notably as Deputy Director of the Peace Corps. When Johnson ascended to the presidency, the former Texas Senator quickly promoted Moyers to be his Special Assistant as part of his trusted inner circle. A longtime supporter of Lyndon B. Johnson, Moyers continues to prove his unwavering support and undying loyalty to his old mentor, the new President of the United States.

Delegate Positions

Dr. H. Guyford Stever

Chairman of the U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board

A former Dean of Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. H. Guyford Stever has served as the chairman of the U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, a commission providing expert advice and guidance to the Air Force on all matters of science and technology since 1962. Recently, Dr. Stever was appointed by his good friend, NACA's Director Hugh Latimer Dryden, to head the Special Committee on Space Technology. However, this was short-lived, since President Eisenhower soon dissolved NACA and replaced it with NASA, in part due to his dissatisfaction with the lack of progress from Stever's committee.[50] While Dryden was appointed to be the new Deputy Administrator of NASA, Dr. Stever was treated less favorably and has not been invited to join NASA in any capacity, resulting in a bitter rift between the two men. Presently, amidst circulating rumors of an impending merger between the Carnegie Institute of Technology and Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, many predict Dr. Stever could be chosen to head the new institution.

Lt. Gen. Walter K. Wilson

Chief of Engineers for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was among the earliest responding bodies to the Kecksburg crash. Since becoming involved in the crisis response, Lieutenant General Wilson has been fully cooperative with the U.S. Air Force devoting his men and resources to salvaging local infrastructure without hesitation. Although the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is normally just tasked with the construction projects for public works such as dams or waterways or the maintenance of

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[49] Harris, Jeffrey A. "Bill Moyers." Robert Shetterly's Americans Who Tell The Truth. 2015.
[50] De Syon, Guillaume. "Dryden, Hugh Latimer. *American National Biography Online.* February, 2000. American Council of Learned Societies.

military facilities, the Corps also has historically been a critical resource for the US government to respond to natural disasters.[51] However, given the unnatural nature of the Kecksburg UFO Incident, Lt. Gen. Wilson and his men fear that this disaster may not only be beyond their expertise, but all other authorities' as well.

Gen. John P. McConnell

Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force
As Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, Four-Star General John P. McConnell has strong oversight over Air Force operations, though he still must defer to the judgment of his superior officer, Curtis LeMay, a Five Star General who is the Air Force Chief of Staff. Despite his seniority, Gen. McConnell has not been informed of the full details of what is happening at the crash site, under the guise of providing him with plausible deniability. Gen. McConnell's full career of Air Force service gives him vast experience that guides his every decision, though he often comes into conflict with the civilian-run Department of Defense whom he feels lack the discipline and background to lead the military.

William Scranton

Governor of Pennsylvania
After only being elected to a single term in Congress three years ago, William Scranton recently experienced a meteoric rise in his career after winning the Pennsylvania gubernatorial election in 1962. Now, Scranton has once again been thrust into the national spotlight as his name has been gaining increased traction as a potential challenger to the polarizing conservative campaign of Senator Barry Goldwater in the 1964 Republican Presidential Primaries. As a statesman, Scranton has been called a "Kennedy Republican" for his centrist stance supporting educational funding and reform as well as his endorsement of Kennedy's stances on Civil Rights.[52] The presidency seems like a long shot to this junior governor with little name recognition outside of Pennsylvania, but if Scranton plans his response to the Kecksburg crash strategically, he could stand to gain an exponential boost in the early polls.

Richard Hall

Executive Secretary of NICAP
A famed advocate within the field of Ufology, Richard Hall has been the Executive Secretary for the National Investigations Committee for Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) since 1958. Hall has been taken by the UFO mystery since his youth, and this fascination led him to join NICAP shortly after graduating from Tulane University with a degree in mathematics. Though open-minded about the issue, Hall is skeptical about the viability of the ETH. Working out of Washington, D.C., Hall's roles within NICAP include serving as NICAP leader Donald Keyhoe's assistant, advisor, and confidante. Richard Hall joined NICAP at a pivotal time in the non-for-profit's history, as the organization has recently experienced unprecedented growth in membership and funding that has helped it to achieve prominence and legitimize its agenda pushing for government transparency on UFOs.[53] Beyond his secretarial roles, Hall has also found a niche for himself on Capitol Hill as an impactful lobbyist for UFO-related legislation. Outside of his secretarial and lobbying work, Hall is about to publish his first book, *The UFO Evidence*, which he believes will make big waves in the field of Ufology owing to its detailed analysis of UFO history from his time at NICAP.

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[51] "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: A Brief History--Responding to Natural Disasters." Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
[52] Jackson, Peter. "Former Pa. Governor, Presidential Candidate Dies." Associated Press. July 12, 2013.
[53] Rojas, Rick. "Richard H. Hall, 78: Leading Ufologist." Washington Post. August 23, 2009.

Joseph M. Barr

Mayor of Pittsburgh

Joseph M. Barr, Democratic Mayor of Pittsburgh, has been a mover and shaker of regional politics since becoming Pennsylvania's youngest State Senator in 1940.[54] Before "coming home" to the city of Pittsburgh, Barr was the Chairman of of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party and was a strong advocate for infrastructural advancement. As Mayor, he has expanded and modernized street lights, water services, and pioneered the Civic Arena, a venue used for everything from sporting events to political rallies. The steel mills and coal mines that comprise Pittsburgh's major industries employ hundreds of people from Kecksburg and the surrounding area. Being the highest-ranking elected local official, Barr is extremely concerned for the safety of the people who live and work in Pittsburgh and their perception of his emergency response in the coming election.

Edward R. Murrow

Director of the U.S. Information Agency
Former broadcast journalist for CBS

One of the most recognizable names in media, Edward R. Murrow has built a legendary reputation as a journalist and broadcaster of great honesty and integrity. Following a long career of broadcasting on the radio, Mr. Murrow became prominently known as the host of *See It Now*, a show which took a hard-hitting approach to tackling highly controversial topics. However, though *See It Now* would occasionally score high ratings, such as during its coverage of the nationwide anti-McCarthy backlash, its ratings were inconsistent and soon began to dwindle, until the network has no choice but to cut its weekly TV. A clash with CBS chairman Bill Paley eventually caused his fall from favor and loss of influence within CBS. Given the chance to run for the Senate, Mr. Murrow turned it down, instead preferring to maintain his reputation as a beloved broadcast journalist and hero to the general public. Following his resignation from CBS, John F. Kennedy offered him an appointment as the head of the US Information Agency, in charge of shaping the face of US media and press both internationally and domestically. Mr. Murrow remains adamant in his belief of being honest and forthright to the public, though he recognizes the potential danger of the leaking of highly sensitive information.[55]

Philip J. Klass

Reporter for *Aviation Week*
Prominent Ufology skeptic

Throughout his career, Philip J. Klass has often been mischaracterized as overzealous, pompous, or even holier-than-thou, though he prefers to be seen instead as a passionate crusader for truth. After a brief and dissatisfying career in electrical engineering, Klass joined *Aviation Week* as a reporter in the early 1950s and has since established himself as a reliable researcher and respected UFO skeptic.[56] Though Klass disagrees with the masses of conspiracy theorists due to his unpopular skeptical stance within Ufology, they share an odd sort of mutual respect in recognizing a shared passion for uncovering secrets. However, while UFO skeptics like Philip J. Klass prominently argue for increased trust in the US government and discredit theories of a cover-up, these unpopular opinions still bring them into conflict with more mainstream Ufologists such as James E. McDonald, who believes that the government is covering-up a UFO-related secret. Nonetheless, Philip J. Klass genuinely believes that most UFOs can be attributed

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[54] "Joseph Barr, 76, Dies; Was Pittsburgh Mayor." *The New York Times*. August 27, 1982.
[55] Persico, Joseph. "Edward R. Murrow: An American Original." McGraw-Hill, 1988.
[56] Posner, Gary P. "ETs May Be *Out There*... But He Says They're *Not Here* - An Interview with Philip J. Klass, the World's Leading UFO Skeptic." SKEPTIC Magazine. 1999.

to prosaic explanations such as ball lightning, and will not rest until he can disprove the conspiracy theorists against all doubt and let the public know the truth once and for all.[57]

Howard Hughes

Business Tycoon
Aerospace Engineer

Business tycoon, investor, aviator, aerospace engineer, inventor, filmmaker, philanthropist, playboy and international icon, Howard Hughes is a household name. Renowned for his intelligence and eccentricity, Hughes is a powerhouse in the commercial sector and a pioneer in the field of engineering. Growing up, Hughes was fascinated by the concept of flight and by 1935 held the landplane airspeed record, in an aircraft of his own design. His designs continue to set records and are leaps and bounds beyond the current capabilities offered by the rest of the private sector. All of his business ventures and assets are managed by the Summa Corporation, a national conglomerate with research facilities in California, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and North Dakota. In recent years, Mr. Hughes' prestigious reputation has enabled him to collaborate closely with the US government, both for politics and the military industrial complex.

Richard Gerstell

Founding Director of PEMA

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is a state agency responsible for coordinating the response to and prevention of major disasters and emergencies. A former physician, Richard Gerstell founded PEMA in 1951 and has served as its director ever since. Gerstell has a large background as a nuclear energy consultant that began when he was stationed in Los Alamos and Bikini Atoll, both nuclear testing sites, as a Lieutenant Commander for the US Navy during WWII. He has published many books and pamphlets about preparing for atomic attacks, surviving nuclear explosions, and safeguarding against biological warfare.[58] As a result, Richard Gerstell is fully aware of the grave danger the crash site's radiation levels pose to civilians, and has been enthusiastically cooperative with the US Air Force's commandeering of PEMA's response efforts since the very beginning. However, as a staunch conservative and believer in the sovereignty of state's rights, Gerstell takes pride in Pennsylvania's capability to organize its own independent response to disasters without having to rely on or wait for the aid of the federal government. As a result, Gerstell believes that President Johnson's formation of his Condon Commission is an unnecessary intrusion into his purview and interprets the national efforts as more of a political move than an action taken out of humanitarian concern.

Dr. James E. McDonald

Physicist at the University of Arizona
Prominent Ufologist

With his background in atmospheric physics, chemistry, and meteorology, Dr. James E. McDonald always thought that UFOs were the result of prosaic explanations until he saw one himself in 1954. Incredibly intrigued, this began Dr. McDonald's interest in Ufology, a field where he is prominently distinguished by his renowned reputation in meteorology in contrast to his open-minded views of the existence of UFOs, having witnessed one himself.[59] Over the course of the last

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[57] Ibid.
[58] "Civil Defense Boss Warns of Panic—New State Director Gives First Advice." *The Pennsylvania Press*. March 29, 1951. Google News.
[59] Ouse, David. "Forgotten Duluthian: James E. McDonald, UFO Researcher." *Zenith City Press*. X-Communication. December 6, 2012.

decade, Dr. McDonald has joined NICAP and has been frequently quoted for his criticism of Project Blue Book. Claiming that the US Air Force has been doing an inadequate job of studying UFO phenomena, Dr. McDonald has often found himself at odds with prominent UFO skeptics such as Philip J. Klass.[60] An open-minded individual, Dr. McDonald says he does not fully support the ETH but considers it a feasible possibility that ought to be considered and not dismissed.

Dr. Hugh Latimer Dryden

Deputy Administrator of NASA
Former Director of NACA

As the founding Deputy Administrator of the National Air and Space Administration (NASA), Dr. Hugh Latimer Dryden is both responsible for defining the role of his office and the agency itself as well as implementing the vision of NASA's Administrator, James E. Webb. Before NASA, Dr. Dryden was the head of NACA and served on the Special Committee on Space Technology chaired by his close friend, Dr. H. Guyford Stever. However, Dryden and Stever had falling out in the aftermath of NACA's dissolution, since the former was appointed to NASA's leadership while the latter was not recruited at all. Since taking office several years ago, Dr. Dryden has quickly defined the Deputy Administrator's role to be the day-to-day leader of NASA, as he himself makes most of the decisions regarding policies, allocation of resources, and management. He even represents NASA in official meetings.[61] As a result, Dr. Dryden constantly deals with a mix of civilian and military representatives, each with different goals and agendas. A few years earlier, Dr. Dryden was seen as the clear choice to become Administrator, but the offer passed him over due to Dr. Dryden's unpopular views on safety measures for space travel that many felt were overly cautious and costly.[62] Dryden's expertise with aeronautics from his time in NASA and NACA lead him to favor terrestrial technology as the most likely explanation for UFOs, though whether they are American or Soviet in origin has yet to be determined.

Clyde Tolson

Associate Director of the FBI

A graduate of Cedar Rapids Business College and the George Washington University, Clyde Tolson has served 10 years as a confidential secretary for three secretaries of war in the early 1920s. After serving his tenth year, Tolson applied to the FBI and was hired as a Special Agent shortly afterward. Despite only intending to use the position as a stepping stool to open his own law practice, he became the chief FBI clerk and was promoted to assistant director in 1930. After 17 years of service, he was made Associate Director. Given Tolson's close relationship with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, President Johnson has called upon him to aid in the event of any possible threats to national security, though the events are not the chief concern of the FBI at the moment. Tolson understands the importance of secrecy in a government organization, and will do whatever it takes to contain government secrets and quell domestic fears.

Robert J. Corbett

Congressman for Pennsylvania's 18th District

A veteran member of the House of Representatives for over 20 years, Republican Congressman Robert J. Corbett's career has taken him through four different Pennsylvania districts. Just over a year ago, he was elected to represent the 18th District, which includes Kecksburg and surrounding areas, leaving him up for

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[60] Ibid.
[61] De Syon, Guillaume. "Dryden, Hugh Latimer. *American National Biography Online*. February, 2000. American Council of Learned Societies.
[62] Ibid.

reelection in the coming months. Corbett started his career in Congress on the Committee on Science, Space and Technology, a committee notorious for its oversight of both NASA and the FAA (Federal Aviation Agency). Moving through the ranks, Corbett later found himself a Senior member of the Committee on Public Works, where he earned a reputation as a staunch opponent of the federalization of state and municipal public works. Most recently, Congressman Corbett was appointed to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, known unofficially as the Warren Commission. While serving on that commission, Corbett achieved national recognition for his persistence in publishing its findings, to the outcry of those who deemed keeping the report classified tantamount to preserving national security.

George Ball

Under Secretary of State

A Northwestern University graduate and protégée of U.S. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson II, George Ball served as a collaborator with French political economist Jean Monnet and the French government in France's economic recovery after the events of World War II. After assisting Stevenson in three consecutive presidential campaigns, Ball served as the Under Secretary of State for Economic and Agricultural Affairs in the Kennedy Administration. During this time, he was the only dissenter against the escalation of the war in Vietnam. As the Under Secretary of State for the Johnson Administration, Ball serves as the primary liaison should the incident be deemed to necessitate foreign involvement. While critics frequently complain about Ball's Eurocentrism, elitism, and indifference to social justice, he is capable of communicating with other countries about their suspicions and can work with international agreements and organizations if necessary.

Myer Feldman

White House Counsel

Having received a degree in Law from and subsequently teaching at the University of Pennsylvania, White House Counsel Myer Feldman was appointed Deputy Special Counsel for the Kennedy campaign in 1961.[63] Hailing from Philadelphia, Feldman started as a legislative assistant to Kennedy before rising up in ranks, compiling negative information on Nixon that became critical to the campaign. A WWII Air Force veteran, Feldman is no stranger to using questionable tactics to achieve victory. Impressed with his uncanny knack for discretion in the conquest of information, Johnson retained Feldman to secretly gather negative information on Goldwater for the upcoming campaigns and feed it to the press. Earlier this year, *The New York Post* called him "the White House's anonymous man."[64]

Edward Litchfield

Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh

As chancellor of the largest university in Pittsburgh, Edward Litchfield is more than just an educational administrator: he is a visionary. Capable of seeing things not for what they are but for what they could be, Litchfield manages a vast network of students, hospitals, and sprawling research centers. Educators, local officials, and industry leaders have lauded him for his dedication to the quest for knowledge and his passion for his students. Known for his generosity, Litchfield has graciously albeit dangerously offered up his University to house and host the Condon Commission. Among his vast network of business and educational connections, Litchfield is infamous for his monthly poker games against both the

[63] "The Avner Cohen Collection - Myer Feldman." Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.
[64] Martin, Douglas. "Myer Feldman, 92, Adviser to President Kennedy, Dies." *The New York Times*. March 3, 2007.

President of the Carnegie Institute of Technology and the President of the Mellon Institute of Industrial research. After drastic failed proposals to adopt both a trimester system and a K-16 (kindergarten through 16th grade) calendar, there are whispers of Litchfield's impending forced resignation. Though Litchfield has denied these rumors, it appears he has taken every precaution to maximize his impact and forever leave a legacy at the University of Pittsburgh.

Paul Nitze

Deputy Secretary of Defense

A wealthy, well-connected, and forceful character, Paul Nitze's government career spans decades. From devising economic strategies during World War II, to rehabilitating Europe post-war, to being one of the principal architects of Cold War Strategy, Nitze has been called upon by countless administrations to address unstable political situations. In 1950, he authored NSC 68, the National Security Council Paper that became the blueprint of American Cold War strategy, placing heavy emphasis on massive political, economic, and military buildup to combat the power of the Soviet Union. Nitze currently serves as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Defense, and though not the final say on the Department's policies, he has significant influence within the Department as well as access to its vast resources. With Cold War tensions continuing to build, the Department of Defense is rapidly expanding and asserting jurisdiction over its Air Force component, resulting in tensions between senior Air Force officers and Defense Department executives.

Carl Albert

House Majority Leader
Congressman for Oklahoma's 3rd District

Having served as the Democratic Congressman for Oklahoma's 3rd District for nearly two decades, Carl Albert's seniority helped him become House Majority Leader in 1962. In this capacity, he will play a pivotal role in the development and passage of any bills to provide emergency relief to UFO victims. Though Albert was a very enthusiastic supporter of the late President Kennedy's 1960 Election campaign, he has recently been working to expand the influence of Congressional Democratic leaders over presidential policy given the recent power shift from Johnson's ascension.

Dr. Luther Terry

Surgeon General of the United States

As Surgeon General, Dr. Luther Terry joins the Condon Commission as a specialist on the public health implications of the present crisis. Dr. Terry has had a decades-long medical career that has brought him to work at numerous institutions including Washington University, the University of Texas at Galveston, and Johns Hopkins University. More recently, Dr. Terry worked at the National Institute of Health, where his groundbreaking cardiovascular research carried him to such prominence that he was appointed Surgeon General of the United States by President John F. Kennedy in 1961.[65] Since then, Dr. Terry has taken an active role in improving public health, and he is on the verge of publishing major findings on the relationship between smoking and health.

[65] "Luther Leonidas Terry (1961-1965)." Office of the Surgeon General. January 4, 2007. Accessed January 16, 2017.

Glossary of Acronyms

AMC--Air Material Command

ATIC--Air Technical Intelligence Center

CIA--Central Intelligence Agency

ETH--Extraterrestrial Hypothesis

FAA--Federal Aviation Agency

FBI--Federal Bureau of Investigation

IFO--Identified Flying Object

MJ-12--Majestic 12

NACA--National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics

NASA--National Air and Space Administration

NICAP--National Investigations Committee for Aerial Phenomena

PEMA--Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency

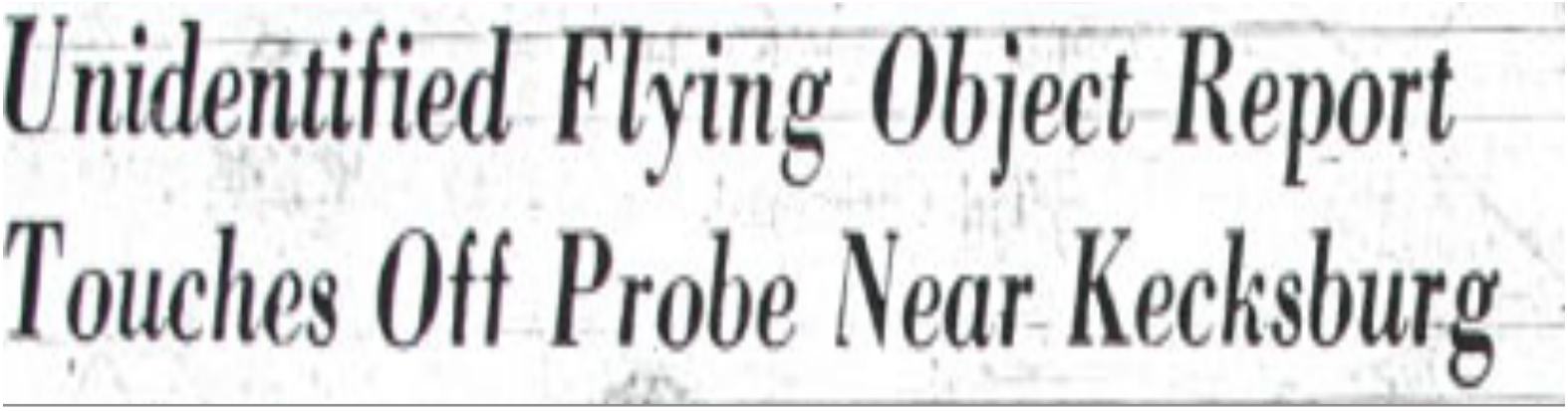
RAAF--Roswell Army Air Field

UFO--Unidentified Flying Object

USAF--United States Air Force

"UFOs: The reliable cases are uninteresting and the interesting cases are unreliable."

-Carl Sagan, Planetary Scientist at Cornell University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